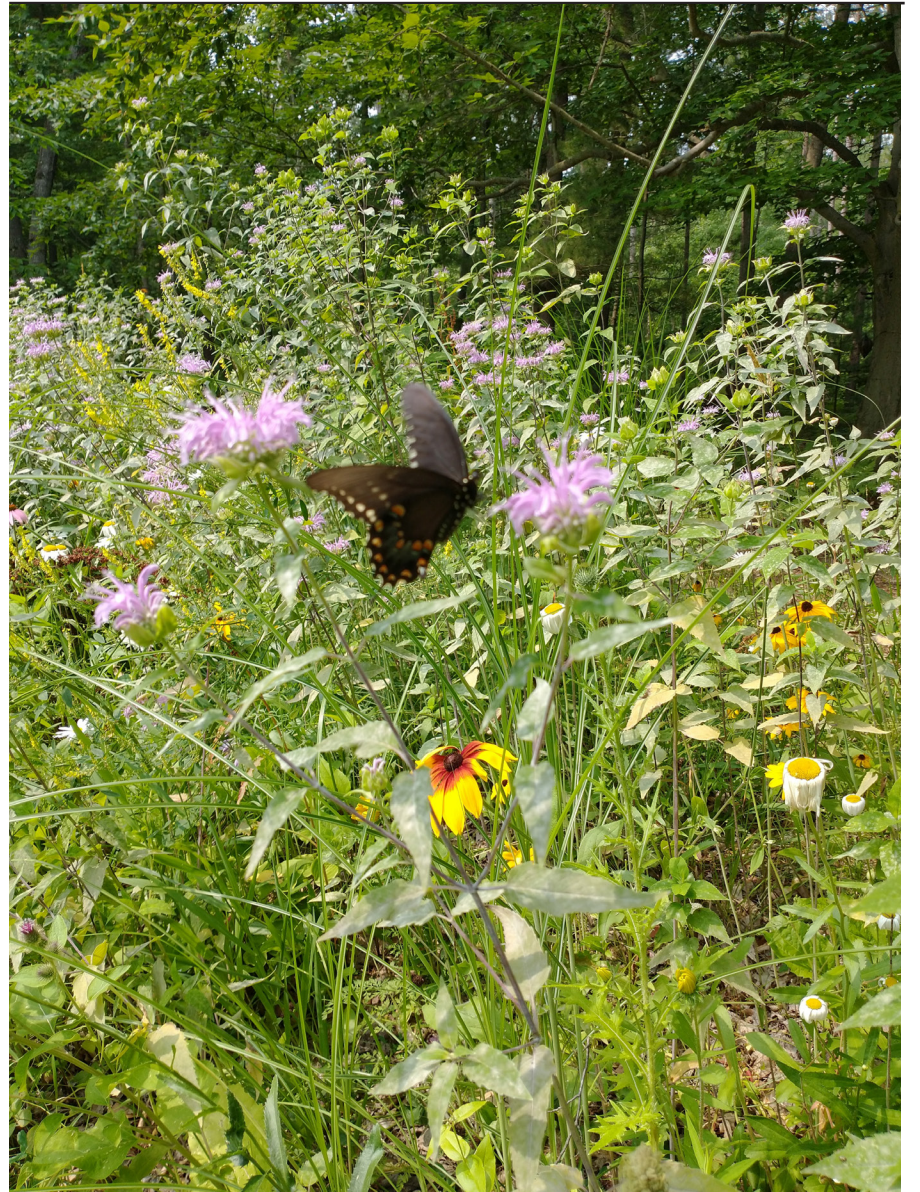


Borealis

The Monthly Journal of Northern Michigan Mensa



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Borealis

Northern Michigan Mensa

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Borealis, the newsletter of Northern Michigan Mensa (Region 3, Group 496), is published under the auspices of its Executive Committee.

The newsletter contains mandatory items; the rest of the content shall appeal to the general membership of Northern Michigan Mensa.

The newsletter shall not include matters which are indecent, scandalous, libelous, or invade someone's privacy, nor shall copyrighted material be used without the permission of the owner. Ethnic, racist, sexist, or religious slurs shall not be printed. Bad jokes are allowed. Northern Michigan Mensa recognizes that the newsletter is addressed to both minors and adults; material printed will be appropriate for distribution to minors.

All matters submitted to the editor shall be subject to editing for content, style, and space limitations, except that if a person submits material with a restriction that it be published "as is or not at all." That a person has written and submitted something to the newsletter is not, in itself, sufficient reason for its publication.

Submissions are welcome! Members of Northern Michigan Mensa may send their original writing submissions to Borealis.

Please do not send the work of others unless such submissions include permission and release of copyright from the author.

Writing:

1. Writing you submit may be edited for length and clarity, but not content. This is the default editorial assumption.
2. If you don't want your work to be edited at all, you may submit it for publication "as is or not at all." It will not be edited in any way. If published, a note will indicate that it is wholly the work of the author.
3. You may also submit work that is rough and needs major editing. If you have written something but don't have time to polish and edit it, you can still submit it and, at your request, we will give it extra help.

All writing and letters may be submitted by email as an attachment or as the message body itself. Typed pages and letters can be mailed.

Photographs:

Photographs and other artwork can be submitted via email in JPEG, PNG, GIF, WEBP, or other standard formats. Flat art or photographs can also be physically mailed, but please do not send originals. Please label each piece submitted with your name and address.

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Announcements

Bibliomensans

Saturday, August 12, 2023, 11:00

Jim McDermott will present the book *When Evil Came to Good Hart*, "An up north Michigan cold case" by Mardi Link. Mardi's a very good author who carefully researches and engagingly/skillfully writes nonfiction works about - you guessed it - northern Michigan. Mardi's actually presented her own book once before at a prior Bibliomensans' meeting, which we all enjoyed. She's a great gal and just as engaging during a Zoom meeting as she is on the page. At press time it's uncertain whether Mardi will join us this time or not - join us and find out! The book's available at local libraries, via the usual sellers/channels, or contact a Bibliomensan if you need help.

Contact Sherry McNamara for more information, and/or an invitation and Zoom link.

FORGe North 2 - North Dakota Mensa

August 11-13, 2023

The North Dakota Chapter invites you to FORGe North and join us for our 16th RG, to be held in Grand Forks, north of Fargo on Interstate 29, on the border with Minnesota. If you fly or take the train to Grand Forks, they can pick you up.

Learn about the history of North Dakota and the city of Grand Forks, including visits to museums, cultural and historic sites, a vineyard with private wine tasting, a Cold War missile silo, and speakers who will enhance your understanding of the region.

Some Mensans - for example from the Ohio area - will be driving to this RG just so they can tick that 50th state off their life list! Join them on the Northern Plains and have some fun.

For more information, contact James Stiles at james.stiles.us@member.mensa.org, or see the announcement on the national Mensa calendar.

Our June “In-Between” Discussion

June was a Bibliomensan “off month”. We meet monthly but discuss (just) 6 books a year, and in the in-between months we enjoy what we call, well, “in-between sessions.” We meet and discuss a movie, a topic of interest; sometimes we have a presentation.

This past June we discussed the statement, formulated as a sort of “natural law”, that it’s not possible to have meaningful conversations or interactions with people with I.Q.s “2 standard deviations away from” or, more than 30 points different from, one’s own.

Bibliomensans had read up on this, of course; obviously, everyone in the group is a reader. Some sources say that the language “2 standard deviations away” simply puts a scientific-sounding gloss on what’s an obvious observation - certain things can’t be communicated when people have different capacity for understanding. So, if you’re trying to explain the details of a subtle wrinkle you just thought up, based on your knowledge of calculus and the theory of limits, you probably won’t be able to fully convey your thought to a person who can’t do math. Hopefully you will avoid the nasty remark “I can explain it to you, but I can’t understand if for you.”

Philosophizing and academic analysis only get you so far, and the personal aspect quickly emerged. It turns out that if you’re well positioned in a social environment that adequately stimulates and nourishes you, if you personally happen to get along just fine with others of very different intelligence - then you’ll probably figure, that the evidence doesn’t add up to the conclusion.

On the other hand, we live in the wild, remote, isolated north - or at least some of us do. A person with very little social contact, may well feel that trying to get their point across, or trying to understand and be understood, is just too difficult, or even impossible.

Turns out, this is one of the founding reasons that Mensa exists; as a “social outlet for smart people.” You may not be able to get everything you like - Bibliomensa meetings are not raduate literature seminars.

This month the “proctor crew” still consists of just one person, your loyal LocSec Leo Hesting, who’s still a lowly proctor-in-training. Looks like Leo might be able to get his certification in late August by driving down to Ann Arbor and proctoring a Mensa Admission Test under the supervision of a currently certified proctor, down there. Let’s hope some candidates show up to be tested!

Proctors are said to be the most active group of volunteers in Mensa, and an interesting and lively crew. That remains to be seen, but more certain, is that proctors are key in bringing in new Mensans. True, about 60% of Mensans who join, do so using what we call “prior evidence.” But the official Mensa tests are valuable too. Perhaps most importantly because it’s possible to get newspaper and other media coverage announcing test sessions. This sort of coverage is invaluable in spreading the word about Mensa.

NMMs have suggested multiple directions for our chapter; too many (and too divergent) to outline here. For now, suffice it to say that the first Mensan many people - including potential candidates - meet, is a proctor. Therefore it’s good to have some good ones.

Becoming a proctor, once we have our first one within NMM, is not too difficult, and can actually lead to interesting things. But mostly, proctors can help attain the critical objective of getting new members into our club. There’s every reason to think that this is possible; Mensa offers a lot of support in the form of resources, tips, software/systems, etc. Both need and interest are high; the function of Mensa as an organization, and NMM as a chapter, can be beneficial and fun both to others and to proctors.

Are you interested in becoming a proctor or a Test Coordinator? Contact Leo Hesting or another officer. The work is light, fun, and interesting, and you get to meet interesting people. Most people who make it all the way to a Mensa Admission Test, actually pass the test. It’s a neat feeling, to socialize and/or work with someone you “brought in” (and/or vetted). Please consider helping us all out with this critical function.

The Problem That Has No Name

These are the first words* of *The Feminine Mystique*, which begins:

The problem lay buried, unspoken, for many years in the minds of American women. It was a strange stirring, a sense of dissatisfaction, a yearning that women suffered in the middle of the twentieth century in the United States. Each suburban wife struggled with it alone. As she made the beds, shopped for groceries, matched slipcover material, ate peanut butter sandwiches with her children, chauffeured Cub Scouts and Brownies, lay beside her husband at night - she was afraid to ask even of herself the silent question - "Is this all?"

Gail Collins, in her introduction to the book's 50th anniversary edition, enumerates various criticisms of the book, then writes:

In a strange way, all those deficits are the book's strength. *The Feminine Mystique* is a very specific cry of rage about the way intelligent, well-educated women were kept out of the mainstream of American professional life and regarded as little more than a set of reproductive organs in heels. It is supremely, specifically personal, and that's what gives it such gut-punching power.

Note the word "intelligent" in there.

You can tell that Friedan was intelligent from her academic record, or just by reading a few pages from her book. She knew whereof she wrote; and did it so well, and with such apt timing, that *The Problem* was recognized as real. She and her book helped launch and lead the movement known as 2nd wave feminism. It was successful to a great extent, and we may never see anything else like it.

But *The Problem That Has No Name* is still a problem, and by the way still has no name. The scale, the landscape, the particulars, are somewhat different. But the feeling and the trapped-ness that Betty described, still exist. Many of us remember it, some of us still experience it, and organizations such as the MAGC** attest to it.

The problem can be stated as a mismatch in communication styles,

*(the title of Chapter 1), by Betty Friedan

**Michigan Association for Gifted Children

The Problem That (still) Has No Name

outlook, interests, motivations, and ways of thinking, being, and acting. What gratifies some, is boring to others. Things they normally and naturally do, seem abnormal and unnatural to others. When this happens to children it tends to make them feel like outcasts, who may in fact be actually, socially, cast out.

Mensans can solve (or avoid) problems with some simple adjustments in communication style. But this doesn't work for everyone.

Persons of I.Q. around 180, for example, are so "special" that some historical researchers and thinkers consider them to be a different species. Though that's false biologically, it does make some sense: the synergistic result of multiple mental processes, each that superior, results in a sort of cognition that may be unfathomable.

High I.Q. children, of course, can suffer. Even if they're identified and supported by their families and everyone they come into contact with, their difference from others presents challenges. And in case of lack of support, things can get miserable. A lot of work has been done in this area; way too extensive to summarize here.

Teens and young adults present a special case. A person in their teens or twenties, probably has some inkling of their situation, and has developed some coping strategies. Still, it's a time of life when peer support is important, when in fact they're modeling, patterning, altering themselves in accordance with and to suit their peers.

I'll close by quoting an expert in intelligence, Russ Warne. From his book *In The Know-Debunking 35 Myths About Intelligence*:

To fulfill this need for socialization with one's intellectual peers, organizations like MENSA - a social group that requires members to score in the top 2% of the population in IQ - exist.

Warne also mentions some of the other "super-high-I.Q." societies, such as the ISPE (which advertises in the Mensa Bulletin) and the Prometheus society. Apparently their memberships are small - also somewhat fractious; something we observe in Mensa also.

But that is a different problem, for another column.

Eight hundred and fifty years ago, on August 9, 1173, construction on the bell tower for the Cathedral of Pisa was begun. Within five years, builders realized there was a problem. As they began work on the second story, the tower began to lean. The 10-foot foundation was not solid enough because of the high water table and soft soil. Work was halted temporarily as Pisa found itself involved in a series of wars. By 1260, when work resumed, the soil had settled enough to keep the tower standing. Designers also made one side of each floor a little higher than the other, giving the tower a curve along with its lean. In 1372, with the addition of the several thousand-pound bells, the tower was complete. Because of the curve, the center of gravity is inside the tower, so it is unlikely to fall.

Seven hundred and seventy-five years ago, on August 15, 1248, Construction of Cologne Cathedral, which would house the bones of the Three Wise Men, began. This was not the first church on the site, with evidence of past churches dating to the fourth century. By 1265, construction had progressed enough for services to be held and the church was consecrated in 1322. By 1500, most of the construction had been completed, but it was halted in 1506. The funding had dried up and many people had lost interest in medieval Gothic architecture. Since the cathedral was usable, no one saw the need to continue. In 1823, the original plan was rediscovered and construction began anew. In 1880, the second tower was finally completed after six centuries, but this did not end work on the cathedral. In the early 20th century, the old choir required substantial renovation and World War II damage also added to the repairs. Even today, work still continues. A staff of 80 includes 30 craftsmen such as stone masons, scaffold makers, roofers and carpenters. Many others are working to repair or reconstruct parts of the structure that have been damaged by weather or simply old age.

— John Devoti is a member of Delaware Valley Mensa. Reprinted with the writer's permission.

Fruit Crisp(s)

Black raspberries are ripening, strawberries and blueberries are available in stores and patches, more fruit's on its way and it'll soon be time to "use it or lose it." Jams and freezing are nice but...

Here's how to make a delicious fruit crisp with whatever fruits you have on-hand. This recipe/method will make one 8 or 9 inch square fruit crisp (the larger size will be bit thinner but just as good). You will need approximately 3.5 to 4 cups of fruit. First, butter the baking pan. Next, dice the fruit into ½ inch pieces unless it's already that small or smaller (e.g., raspberries). If the fruit is juicy, sprinkle it with a tablespoon of corn starch or tapioca starch. Sprinkle fruit with some sugar (about 2 tablespoons unless it's especially tart, in which case add up to 2 more) and then squeeze a half-lemon or -lime over the fruit to add a bit of acid. Put the fruit in the baking pan and set aside while you prepare the topping.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Melt 6 tablespoons unsalted butter in the microwave or on the stovetop. In a medium bowl, place 1 cup of flour, 1½ cups of old-fashioned oats, ½ teaspoon salt, and ½ cup of brown sugar. Whisk to combine well, then pour the melted butter over the mix and use a fork to moisten the dry ingredients. Drop the topping mix evenly over the fruit with a spoon; it will almost cover all of the fruit. Bake at 375 degrees F for 35 – 40 minutes, until fruit is hot and bubbling and crisp topping is golden brown. Let cool and enjoy, or serve warm with a scoop of vanilla ice-cream.

This is just a basic template, so be creative and add whatever you like; a half cup of chopped pecans or walnuts to the topping mix, or perhaps some cinnamon, vanilla, or other spices to the fruit. I like ginger and peaches together, and once made a fruit crisp with diced peaches that had been macerated in ginger liqueur. Cater to your tastes and to those for whom you cook and everyone will be glad you did.

— Niki Foor's column, Foor Love of Food, is reprinted with permission from MPULSE, the newsletter of Dayton Area Mensa.

Happy August Birthday!

Corinne Mowrey	August 12
Suzanne Cook	August 23

Mensa Membership Milestones (Years of continuous Membership)

1 year	Susan Nolff
4 years	Zakkeus Bedford
20 years	Carola Novarro
21 years	John Porter
22 years	Josh Ockert

Ah, if only...

July was half-price month for proctored Mensa Admissions Tests. The National Office actually offers a pretty decent system for tracking and contacting potential Mensans. However to get 'em in you have to test them, which hopefully we'll be able to do when half-price month rolls around next year. Or maybe even sooner.

Call for Testing Coordinator

Proctors administer the Mensa Admissions Tests, but somebody needs to take care of the logistics. Interacting with (U.S./NO) Mensa systems, scheduling, fielding requests and questions, "and other duties as found." Sound like fun? This is a really important job.

Contact Jim McDermott for more information, or to help.

Elected Members

Local Secretary	Leo Hesting	231-465-5111	leo@us10.org
Deputy LocSec	Heather Hollick	919-360-1532	heather@heatherhollick.com
Treasurer	John Porter	231-499-9662	porterjm17@gmail.com
At-Large	Jaeger Griswold	313-690-4867	jaegergriz@peoplepc.com
At-Large	Seeking volunteer		

Appointed Members

Membership	Jim McDermott	231-943-7792	jhmcdermott@yahoo.com
Ombudsman	Josh Ockert	231-288-0125	lee.ockert@gmail.com
Scholarship	Seeking volunteer		
SIGHT	Melissa Rennie	231-889-4198	renmeij@yahoo.com
Financial Overseer	Sherry McNamara	231-313-2769	sherrymcnamara@hotmail.com
Bibliomensans	Sherry McNamara	231-313-2769	sherrymcnamara@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	H. Gruenberg-Seger	231-932-9501	britajax@gmail.com
Graphics Editor	- Seeking volunteers		
Program Coordinator	- Seeking volunteers		
Publications Officer Pro Tempore	- Leo Hesting		
Website & Communications Coordinator	- Seeking volunteers		
Testing Coordinator, Proctor, Proctor Coordinator	- Seeking volunteers		

Regional Vice Chair Lora Mitchell 614-450-0170 rvc3@us.mensa.org

Check out our website: www.nmm.us.mensa.org

NMM general message #: (231) 480-1488

On the cover: Butterfly and wildflowers
by NMM member Leo Hesting